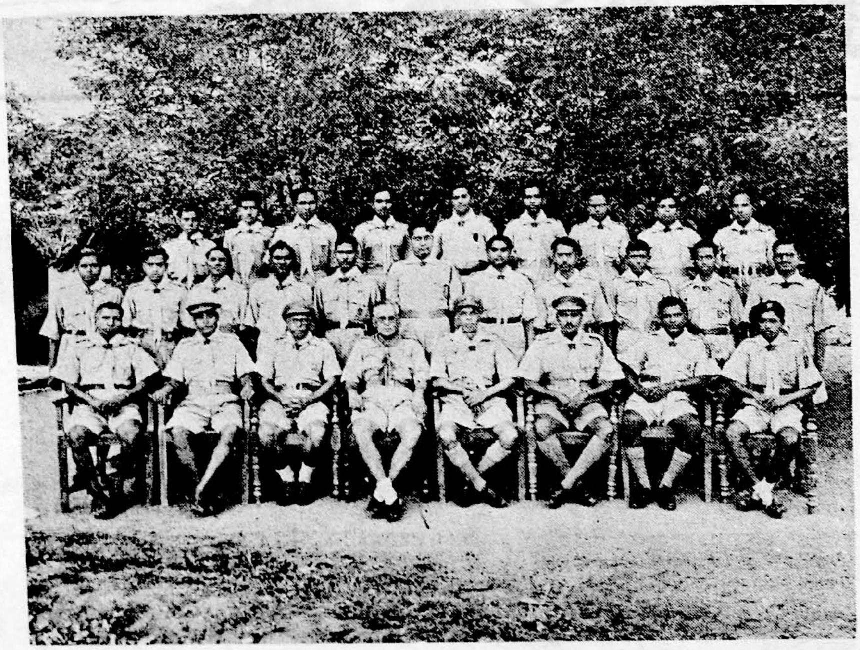
THE BHARAT SCOUTS & GUIDES BULLETIN

3000 SCOUTS AND GUIDES GO ON RURAL SERVICE

His Excellency the Governor Sri Shri Prakasa visits Rural Service Camp at Thookkanaickenpalayam, Coimbatore District on 16-5-1955.

MAY & JUNE 1955



SCOUTMASTERS' TRAINING CAMP—ATTUR

20-4-55 to 1-5-55

THE
BHARAT SCOUTS & GUIDES
BULLETIN
MADRAS STATE
(Approved by the Director of Public Instruction, Madras)

VOL. 6 MAY & JUNE 1955 No. 1 & 2

Rural Service Camps by our Scouts & Guides

YOUTH Camps run by Scouts were a great success. This year 3000 boys and girls partook in the Camps and wherever I went I found them cheerful and doing their allotted work willingly and enthusiastically. Like labourers with shorts and banians and cloth tied round their heads with axe and trawl in their hands they did their work either at the trenches on the road side or in the cheries cleaning up the whole place. It was a pleasure to see these lads entering in the spirit of service and spending their holidays in national service. They have contributed thousands of Rupees worth of labour and brought cheer to their village brethren. Round the Camp fire they entertained the villagers with songs and dance and fine tales of old. The story of Five Year Plan was lucidly explained. We must thank the Government for giving this opportunity for Service for giving them sumptuous food and above all for the Camp life for twenty one days to which the Scouts yearned so much.

There was complete discipline in the Rank and file and the villagers learned very good lessons from these Campers In the Five Year Plan this item for Youth Welfare is much to be appreciated. The Scout Officers most of them non-official busy men stayed with the boys and looked after their comforts and their work The N.E.S. Organisation gave their full support. But for their co-operation and the help of the villagers such quick work should not have been possible. The Girl Guides had a distinguished part to play. While doing all the work the boys are doing, they freely mixed with the village women folk and helped them in various ways. I hope and trust that the Government will study this great power generation and implement their resources so that greater usefulness may be achieved in the years to come. You, Scouts and Guides, you have done very well indeed and I am proud of you.

K. Venkataswamy Naidu
STATE CHIEF COMMISSIONER

Youth Camp Organisers Training Course

UNDER the auspices of the Bharat Sevak Samaj, Madras State, a training Course for Youth Camp Organisers was held at the Besant Scout Camping Centre, Adyar from 8th to 17th May 1955, both days inclusive. The syllabus for the Training for the Camp Organisers Training Course was on the basis of the scheme drawn up by the Bharat Sevak Samaj.

The Course

The subjects dealt with were Youth Movements, Leadership, Organisations and Administration, Planning, Records and Accounts. Camp Kitchen, Recreation, Rural life, Social Education, Five Year Plan and publicity.

Mr. Narayanan, The Five Year Plan Publicity Officer, Mr. P. S. Krishnaswamy and Miss Buvaneswari of Adyar, Mr. Ranganayagulu, Deputy Director, of Public Instruction, Dr. Jayalakshmi Rao Deputy Director, Women's Welfare Department, Dr. Sundara Babu, Assistant Health Officer, Corporation of Madras and Mrs. Y G. Parthasarathy, besides the Camp Director took up talks and demonstrations on these various subjects.

Rural Service

The Campers undertook to prepare a civic square in the Olcott Kuppam, Fishermen Village adjoining the Campsite, cleaned the surroundings, levelled the grounds, dug up soak pits, whitewashed the School building and the Bhajan Mandir and made the place healthy and clean. In this work the Kuppam people also joined in cheerfully.

Youth Camps

One day was devoted to a visit to Youth Camps in Trivellore area, at three centres. 1. Trivellore, 2 Perambakkam and 3 Pannur. At Trivellore it was the closing of a Camp that they saw, at Perambakkam they saw a Camp of 125 of which 21 were Girl Guides and others (boy) Scouts Our women Campers were interested in finding out the work done by the (Girl) Guides. The nature of work was visit to Cheris, distribution of milk to children, white washing the houses, and cleaning the surroundings. They also took note of the children who were ill and sick and gave them treatment by distributing medicine etc. The boys made a road which was also visited.

At Pannur 180 Scouts were in Camp. They cleaned the Streets, and whitewashed houses, dug up manure pits and built an Open Air Theatre. These were seen by the Campers. After a visit to the Temple at Tiruvellore, the Campers returned at 7 P.M. Thus a whole day was spent in learning all about Youth Camps as run and directed by the Bharat Scouts and Guides, Madras State.

Camp Life

Two Camp-fires were held during the Course which gave an opportunity to bring out the best talents of the Campers. The Camp life itself began every day at 5 A.M. and the Campers kept themselves busy till 10 P.M.

We are happy to record the visit of Mr. Ramachandra Rao from the Central Organisation at Delhi on two days, when he gave the Campers an insight into the workings of the Bharat Sevak Samaj and the special features of the Youth Camps that are to be started. The Camp was formally inaugurated by Mr. K. Venkataswamy Naidu Chairman of the Camp Committee and addressed by Mrs. S. Manjubhashini on 10th May 1955.

Closing function

On the last day 17th evening the closing function was presided over by Mrs. Ammu Swaminathan and addressed by Mrs Mona Hensman when Mr. K Venkataswamy Naidu Mrs. Manjubhashini, Mrs. Y G. Parthasarathy also addressed the Campers. The Camp Director giving a review of work done emphasised the need to get trained personnel to take charge of Youth Camps and suggested that Campers may be sent as Assistants to competent Leaders who may be put in charge of various camps that will be run by the Bharat Sevak Samaj in the Madras State . He was happy to report that the Campers on the whole showed good spirit and interest in the work. Given proper guidance they will prove very useful.

We are thankful to the Theosophical Society for allowing us the use of the Besant Scout Camping Centre and also for the use of the two cottages. I am thankful to the Bharat Sevak Samaj, Madras State for inviting me to be of service to the Organisation as Camp Director of this Youth Camp Organisers' Training Course. (The programme is attached herewith and also the accounts relating to the expenses incurred.)

The future

I may say for our future guidance such Training Courses should be taken up after proper preparation, sufficiently in advance and the selection of candidates also made carefully, based on certatn required standards, in order that we can be sure of efficient work. All the same under the circumstances, the one that we took up was more in the nature of an emergency measure to provide workers for the Camps that are already sanctiored and to be started within a course of a week or so. Taking into consideration these various points, we may say we have done fairly well.

V. S. RATNASABHAPATHY,
Camp Director

This camp was taken up at the invitation of the Bharat Sevak Samaij We are glad to feel that Bharat Scouts and guides was requested for help, in the matter of training leaders.

—Editor

The South Madras Bharat Scouts and Guides

1. Office Bearers

The following Office bearers have been unanimously elected for the current year.

President: Sri C. R. Pattabhiraman, Vice-Presidents: Mrs. Rajam Ramaswami, Sri V. A Ramachandra Iyer, Sri A. M. M. Arunachala, Prof. A Muthiah, Treasurer: Sri J. D. Pannalal, Secretaries: Miss S. Indira, Sri V. G. G. Sarma.

2. Festival Service

The Kapaleeswarar Brahmotsavam that lasted from 30-3-1955 to 8-4-1955 at Mylapore afforded the District a channel of Practical and constructive service. The Commissioner of Police Sri Parthasarathy Iyengar invited the Disirict Commissioner(S) for a detailed discussion as to the various aspects of service. This year the District deputed a batch of Scouts drawn from Prathaps, Subramanyas, and Siddhartas , to be on duty by shifts throughout day and night for all the festival days. Besides the main rendezvous at the premesis of the Indian Bank, a separate booth was opened quite adjacent to the main gate. Further a rescue centre was also opened at the junction of Brodies Road and North Mada Street under the joint auspices of the Mylapore Academy and the South Madras Bharat Scouts and Guides. Over 130 Scouts and Rovers drawn from Athipathars, Arundales, Olcotts, Gadadhars, Prathaps, Shivajis, Subrahmanyas, Siddartas and Mylapore Rover Crews and a Contingent of Rovers and Scouts drawn from the East Madras with Sri Alavandar, D.R.S.L. as the Contingent leader did very fine service on 31-3-55, 2-4-55. 4-4-55 and 5-4-55. The service consisted in cordoning areas, forming search parties, regulation of traffic, distribution of milk and broadcasting to the public. Sri H. Ramanathan The District Commissioner (S) was the Commandant of the service Corps aided by Sri D. Girirajan, Subrahmanyas and Sri K. S. Jayaraman, Master of Finace, Prathap Scout Group. The Scouts did a very fine job and endeared themselves to the public.

3. Khari Kamai :

The District gave a practical shape to the ideal of "Do a job and earn" when it deputed over 30 Senior Scouts from 19-4-55 and 24-4-55 with Sri T. Suryanarayanan, Quarter Master of the District, as the leader to distribute from door to door of the entire City and the surrounding suburbs over 13,000 free samples of the Rinso Powder Packets of the Lever Brothers (India) Ltd. After the conclusion of the rounds, the Scouts began to feel justifiably proud of their magnificent piece of work.

CANADA JAMBOREE IN AUGUST 1955

To All District Commissioners (Scouts), Madras State.

Dear Brother,

You are already aware that the International World Jamboree will be held in Canada in August 1955 from 18th to 26th. The cost of sending a Scout is Rs 6000/- and since the cost was prohibitive it was found difficult to get Scouts to attend the Jamboree. This matter was brought to the notice of the National Council and the National Headquarters. A request was made that the National Headquarters should apply to the Government for help. Accordingly the Government was approached and they have sanctioned a certain amount of money. It was also pointed out that generally the Scouts who attend the Jamboree are mostly rich boys whether they possess the merit and efficiency or not.

To enable poor and deserving Scouts to attend the Jamboree, financial help was needed and the Government of India has come forward to help. It is suggested therefore that a Scout in your District should be selected who possesses the following minimum requirements.

(a) Age not below 13 and over 17 on the 18th August 1955;

(b) Merit First Class, preferably Bharat Scout;

(c) Special Proficiency badges like Pioneering, Camping and Ambulance earned will be an additional qualification;

(d) Progress of the Scout in Schools to be certified by the Headmaster;

(e) Adherence to the Scout Law and Promise to be certified by the proper Scout authorities; and

(f) Readiness to meet at least half or some portion of the trip expenses.

A Competition will be held at Madras and the deserving Scout will be sent. Please take therefore, necessary, steps to select a Scout from your District and let us know before the 25th of June 1955, if not earlier. If it is not possible to select a Scout in your District, please inform us immediately.

Yours in service,
V. S. RATNASABHAPATHY,
State Secretary.

We regret to record the sudden passing away of Sri Madhava Rajah, Rajah of Kollengode an ardent supporter of the Scout Movement, the President of the Bharat Scouts and Guides, South Malabar District. His daughter Miss Saraswathi Madhava Rajah, District Commissioner (Guides) replies to our letter of condolence, as follows:

"We are deeply grateful to you for your message of sympathy in our recent bereavement. You who knew him so well will realise how much he is being missed not only at home but everywhere. It is a source of comfort to us to know there are many friends who share with us in our sorrow.

Yours in service,
SARASWATHI MADHAVA RAJAH
Dt. Commissioner, (Guides)

Growth of Scouting in England and America

IN England at many places boys themselves formed Scout Troops after reading Scouting for Boys and the movement spread like wild fire. In America the movement took deep root in the soil by hearing the incident of a selfless good turn by an English Scout to an American Merchant. In England at that time B P. was a hero of Mafeking and boys wanted to follow him. In India inspite of all Government help, circulars from the Education departments, messages from the leaders giving their support to the movement the public are not feeling that it is their movement yet.

There is an impression that the movement is foreign and copied in this country, and is one of the part of the various activities of the schools.

In order to attract parents and especially young men it is necessary to point out to them that though the term scouting is foreign yet the system of training and methods adopted are not new to India. As a matter of fact, poineers and explorers of all nations have to develop qualities like character, self reliance, pluck, courage, hardihood, imagination, presence of mind etc. Lord Baden Powell who was an explorer and adventurer throughout his life and who had opportunities to see the various parts of the world and also had the responsibility of training young men evolved a scheme which could attract boys. It must be brought to the notice of the public, parents and young men, that the knot tying, raft making, bridge building, signalling, observation, deduction, hardihood, knowledge of trees and birds are the subjects which were taught to pioneers and explorers of all ages, For instance, in India when Rama started for the forest he had taken with him only bows, arrows, basket, an axe, a hoe and two bark pieces. Lakshman had laid tracks with kush grass on land and with valkal pieces on trees, Ram & Lakshman prepared a raft to cross the river and then built a hut and thatched with grass. Hanuman could go in disguise to Lanka. In Mahabharat we find mention as to how Ekalavya learnt the art of archery by self help. Then there is a mention of a code language (mlemch) in which Vidurva was speaking with Yudhistera. Then the characteristics of the Rajputs, Marathas, Sikhs, and the efforts made by Akbar for the unity of India, laying gardens by Akbar, road making by Ferozshah Tuglak, all these should be used in talking about respective subjects in Scouting. The idea of the universal Brother-hood is mentioned that Parvati Devi, the world mother, is my mother, The Lord Maheshwar the Father of all is my father, all men are my brothers, the whole world is my Fatherland.

Laws of wars:—(from ' Indian Culture ' by Hirendra Dutt) :—

Indian Laws of war as given by Manu pp 90

1. To make war on one another without treachery ;

2. Not to smite the foe with sharp weapons concealed in wood, nor with arrows barbed nor with poisoned arrows, or with darts blazing with fire.

3. Not to strike an enemy who sues for life with closed palms, nor one who says ' I am captive ', nor one who is disarmed ; nor one who is spectator ; not a combatant; nor one who has broken his weapon ! nor one who is grievously wounded.

4. Not to take up arms against one another without warning. Thus had been declared the blameless law of military men, from this law a king must never depart when he attacks his foes in battle.

Patrol System

Moniter system –(Patrol System) Individual attention and education closely connected with life outside the School were the special features of ancient Indian education. (Indian education in ancient and later times by E. E. Keay)

Patrol Flags

Every Line of Kings had its separate Dhwaja or Lanchana. The symbol was, always an animal. The Lanchana of Gupta

was Peacock, of Vardhanas of Thaneshwar a Bull, of Chalukyas a Varaha, of Yashodharma, Aulikara.

Story Telling

Stories were used for imparting moral education and for instructions useful in practical life. Stories from :—Tantra Akhyayika, Panchtantra, Hitopadesh, Katha Sarit Sagar, Ramayana, Mahabharata, Arabian Nights, Aesoph Fables, Jatak Stories and also folk lore stories from other nations must be used.

Wolf

Wolf is not liked by Indians. Mention is made of lion in Ramayana and Mahabharata. Wolf is mentioned as a mean and cunning animal even in the *Aesoph Fables.*

Songs & Folk Dances

There are ballads and other folk songs and folk dances which must be made full use of.

Good Turn

Ideal of a Good turn is mentioned in Bhagwat Gita in the following words Charity given as a matter of duty, without expectation of any return, at the right place and time, and to the right person is said to be Satvik.

That alms given to one who does nothing in return believing it gift ought to be made in a fit place and time to a worthy person, that alms is accounted pure.

Observations

While teaching Observation we can mention Meghdut by Kalidas, (Stanzas 55 to 65) and Kadanberi or Harsha charity by Bana where there are specimens of minute observations. Bana's keen observation of the common place sides of human life is fully seen in his vivid discription of the palaces and cities as well as hermitages, and forests, His grand discription of the scenes on the Himalayan mountains, the lake in the midst of the dense thickets and the residence of Maheswara are worth noting.

Nature Study

During Monsoon on some occasions some leaves and flowers are to be offered to God and all these have not medicinal properties.

The following prayer to Agni can be used for campfire :—As there art inflamed Agni through that piece of wood thus, inflame me through wisdom insight, cattle, Holy lustre and through the enjoyment of food. (Ancient Indian Education by Radha Kumar Mukerjee)

Fire by Friction

"The usual way of striking fire in the East is by rubbing together two pieces of wood, one of which is commonly of tree called 'Markh' and the other of that called 'Afar' and it will succeed even though the wood be wet or green. (from Koran, chapter on cow).

Information about wood

The following lines give information about the types of trees to be used for beams and Pillars.

While giving description of Rama, Valmiki has given the conceptions of an ideal man.

It is necessary to collect information from all the parts of the country and from kinds of people who have adopted this land as their motherland, which can be used in bringing up the new generation with the proper outlook for the prosperity and the protection of Bharat.

The Bharat Scouts & Guides will have to help boys & girls to become citizens of a democratic, secular, united nation, who wants to live in peace and prosperity and who would also help other nations to live as happy, healthy and useful citizens of God.

As Lord Baden Powell has put it in Scouting for Boys, page 307, the whole object of our scheme is to seize the boy's character in its red hot stage of enthusiasm, and to weld it into the right shape and to encourage and to develop its individuality, so that the boy may educate himself to become a good man and a valuable citizen of our country in the immediate future.

D. P. JOSHI,
Jt. National Organising Commissioner.

Chief Minister Inaugurates Scout Camps

Chief Minister K. Kamaraj on 19th April, 1955 inaugurated the 'youth Camps by Scouts and Guides', in which more than 3,000 Scouts and Guides participated at Wenlock Park, Triplicane.

It was proposed to hold 20 Camps in 11 districts of the State.

Sri K. Venkataswami Naidu, State Chief Commissioner, who presided, welcomed the Chief Minister and others. He said that the object of the camp was to inculcate discipline among the Scouts and Guides. This was also an opportunity for the Scouts to do a bit of national service He thanked the Government for the support they were extending to the scout movement.

Inaugurating the camp, the Chief Minister emphasised the significance of such camps and said that the scouts and guides should realise the value of self-help and dignity of labour. He said that camps like this gave them ample chance to exercise these qualities.

Mr. Kamaraj praised the work done by the Scouts during the summer camp last year, and said that the people greatly appreciated what they had done, and were also induced to join hands with them in constructive work.

Describing the work done by the Scouts as 'Uzhaippu dhanam', the Chief Minister said that in the old days labour was respected and people worked for the pleasure of it. Nowadays people worked only for earning a living and those who did manual work were looked upon with some indifference and contempt. Such an attitude, he said, should go and people should be made to realise the value of self-help and dignity of labour. He wished the camps all success.

Mr. V. S Ratnasabhapathy, State Secretary, reviewed the work done by the Scout and Guides during the summer camp held last year and said that encouraged by the result attained that year, they had organised a series of camps this summer throughout the State in which 3000, Scouts and Guides would take part. The running of such camps had helped them to impart good training in community service to the young boys and girls

The Secretary also read messages received from the Governor and others wishing the camp success.

The Governor said that it gave him particular pleasure to know that Scouts and Guides would visit the interior parts of many districts and do the very useful work of improving the amenities in the rural areas. He added that "the noble endeavours of the Bharat Scouts and Guides in this direction deserve our admiration and gratitude"

Smt. Ahalya Santhanam, District Commissioner, proposed a vote of thanks.

Agriculture Minister Inaugurates the Madurai Camp

INAUGURATING the road-laying work under the auspices of the Madurai District Bharat Scouts and Guides Association at Villur in Tirumangalam Taluk on May 3rd, the Hon'ble Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam said that the purpose of students and Scouts taking part in social service activities in villages was to get themselves acquainted with the problems of villagers and thus qualify themselves to fulfil their role as worthy citizens of free India.

Over 300 Scouts and Scouters are participating in the three-week camp at Villur and Maravapatti. They will lay a five-miles road linking Villur and Maravapatti. The road, when formed, will benefit four villages lying between the two places. The work has boen taken up under the National Extension Service Scheme of the Government of Madras.

Mr. A. Chidambara Mudaliar, Madurai Municipal Chairman presiding, a public meeting was held at the village.

Dr. K. G. Ramabadran welcomed the Minister. Mr. Balasubramania Nadar, Chairman of the Camp Committee appealed

to the villagers to come forward to work alongside the young boys in laying the road.

Mr. K. Rajaram Naidu, M L A., said that the motto of Scouting was to do service to the people of this country.

Mr. Bhakthavatsalam, Minister for Agriculture said that they (Villagers) should put an end to fissiparous tendencies which would hamper their progress.

He said that mere bookish education would not be of use to students in later life and it was necessary that they should have practical experience. He said that school education was not complete in itself unless it provided scope for students to get to know of the problems of the people around them It was with this view that today in schools and colleges, they had social service as a part of their curriculum. This type of training enabled the youth to achieve all-round development, he added. He deplored the way in which even big tanks, which were the main sources of supply, had been left uncared for in many villages. By doing so. the Minister felt, they were misusing the great benefits conferred on them by their ancestors. Citing an instance in point, the Minister said that the Rani Mangammal Salai, which the scouts were going to relay during their camp, had ceased to be of use to them since they had neglected carrying out repairs on the road periodically. The reconstruction of the road, under these circumstances, was indeed the best service that the villagers could get from the young scouts who were the future citizens of this Country.

Mr. M. V. M. S. Rajamanickam, Secretary, Tirumangalam Local Scout Association and of the Camp Committee proposed a vote of thanks.

IDEAL OF SERVICE

APPEAL TO SCOUTS

HIS Highness the Rajpramukh of Mysore said at Ootacamund on May 14th 1955 that organisations like the Scout movement inculcated an ethical ideal in the minds of the younger generation and gave them a lead at a time when they were unable to meet the baffling confusions of the time. His Highness was declaring open the Scouts and Guides Carnival held at the Government Botanical Gardens under the auspices of the Nilgiris District Bharat Scouts and Guides Association.

After Mr. N. Krishnaswami, Collector of the Nilgiris and President of the District Scout Council, welcomed the Rajpramukh, Mr. N. R. B. Naidu, District Commissioner read a report on the activities of the Association.

The Rajpramukh said he was very favourably impressed with the smart turnout and the fine display put up by the Scouts As the Chief Scout of Mysore State, he conveyed to them the greetings and sincere good wishes of the Scouts and Guides of Mysore. He was happy to learn that the movement had been consolidated in the Nilgiris. An important landmark in the history of Scouting in India in recent years was the merger of the three existing Associations into the Bharat Scouts and Guides as the movement was now known. This was a unique and bold experiment in youth welfare and the results had shown the wisdom of the step taken by the authorities in this connection. He asked them not to rest on their laurels.

The Rajpramukh said, "A famous scientist recently described the disease from which the world is suffering to-day as being due to the absence of an ethical ideal and in the preparation of a brighter tomorrow, if we are to give a lead to youth, as it meets the baffling confusions of our time, it must surely be through organisations such as this. May this great youth movement lay the true foundation for lasting peace and brotherhood among men. For it is to youth, the age of idealism, that we must look for new ideals in life, religion and dedication to the service of others."

Mr. M. Bhaktsavatalam, Agriculture Minister, Madras, addressing the Scouts and Guides, exhorted them to live up to the ideals of the movement not only during their stay in the schools or colleges but even after they left the schools and colleges. This movement, he added, taught them a lot of good things which would be very useful to them in conducting themselves in their lives and making themselves dutiful and responsible citizens.

Messrs. H. B. Ari Gowder, M.L.A., former District Commissioner, J I. Muthiah, State Organising Commissioner, Madras, and others also spoke. Mr H. C. M. MacLaughlin, former Collector of the Nilgiris, proposed a vote of thanks.

Earlier, there was a procession of Scouts and Guides, headed by two camels and an elephant. There was an interesting programme of display of Scout activities.

DISTRICTS AT WORK

COIMBATORE

Rural Rover Leaders' Training Camp—Avanasi

This Course was conducted at Avanasi, Coimbatore District, from the 10th to the 21st April, 1955 for the purpose of training 36 volunteers as Village Leaders in the Block Development area at Tirupur. They were selected from 35 different villages and were not connected with any Schools but men of independent professions, such as farmers, land owners, and shop keepers in villages. The Camp was declared open on the 11th morning by Sri P. K Nambiar I.A S. Collector of Coimbatore The syllabus consisted of the subjects relating to Rover Scouting and Rural Economy and the candidates went through a practical course of training in different items of the Community Projects programme, including the Japanese methods of paddy cultivation. On 16-4-55, Sri G. Venkatachalapathy Director of Rural Welfare and Sri L. Bharathi, Deputy Director visited the Camp and stayed on for a day with the campers Sri Venkatachalapathy presided over the camp fire at night and gave an inspiring talk to the trainees. Sri J. I. Muthiah, D.C.C , State Organising Commissioner was in charge of the Course. Sri S M. Sulaiman, B.Sc., (Ag) Block Development Officer, made arrangements for the Camp. Sri T. R. Sundaram Pillai, B.A.B.L. District Scout Commissioner visited the camp twice and encouraged the campers.

Rural Cubmasters' Training Camp—Avanasi

With a view to introduce Cubbing in the villages in the Block Development area, Tirupur, Coimbatore District, a course of training for prospective Cubmasters and Cub workers was run at Avanasi from 21-4-55 to 27-4-55. 31 candidates most of whom were Elementary School teachers in the villages attended. The Course was inaugurated by Sri T. R. Sundaram Pillai, B.A., B.L., District Scout Commissioner on the 22nd morning. Messrs. T. S. Ramalingam, B Sc , Asst. District Commissioner for Scouts also addressed the campers. Sri Sulaiman, Block Development Officer was in charge of camp arrangements and Sri Muthiah conducted the Course.

SOUTH ARCOT DISTRICT

Sri J. K. R. Subramaniam, Assistant District Commissioner of Valavanur met Miss Dolly Bulsara and her party of Girl Guides of Bombay numbering nine at Valavanur Railway Station on 27-5-55 and took them to Pondichery for a short stay at the Shri Arbindo Ashram. The Ashram authorities provided all the comforts. After accommodating the party at the Ashram the Assistant District Commissioner took leave of them and returned to Headquarters.

* * *

Shri Swamikannu Padayachi, M.L.A. President District Board, South Arcot and the Hon'ble Minister Shri S. S. Ramaswamy Padayachi visited Valavanur on 30-5-55 in connection with the opening of a Maternity Ward. The Local Panchayat Board presented an address of welcome to the Hon'ble Minister to the Government of Madras. The Shivaji Scouts numbering 24 of the Board High School, Valavanur under the leadership of Sri J. K. R.

Subramaniam, Assistant District Commissioner rendered service during both the functions.

* * *

Under the auspices of the Youth Congress Valavanur a Water Tank was opened by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri K. Kamaraj Nadar on 16-5-55. An address of welcome was also presented by the Panchayat Board Valavanur. For both the functions, the Scouts of the Board High School Valavanur numbering 24 rendered service. Sri J. K. R. Subramaniam, Assistant District Commissioner, Valavanur, assisted by Sri K. S Doraiswamy, Assistant Scoutmaster of the George School, Valavanur were in charge of the Troop.

Sri G. V. Narayanan, District Superintendent of Police, South Arcot thanked the Scouters for their services.

* * *

Under the auspices of the Local Scout Association, Valavanur a Scout Rally was organised by Sri J. K. R. Subramaniam, A D.C. of the area on 29th and 30th April, Girl Guides, Cubs and Scouts numbering 240 from eight Schools including 20 Scouters attended the Rally. Dr. V. Krishnamurthy District Commissioner was the Camp Chief assisted by Messrs K. Devanathan and S. Sambamurthy Secretaries of the Association. Sri A. R. K. Murthy B.E.M.I.E., Chief Electrical Engineer of Messrs. S.A.E.D. Ltd., and President of the District Association opened the Camp. Messrs C. K. N. S. Nagarajan, President of the Local Association and P. G K. Iyengar, B A , B L., A. D C Villupuram hoisted the National Flag and the Scout Flag. Sri A. R. K. Murthy stressed the importance of the various duties of the Scouts Dr V. Krishnamurthy also impressed in the minds of the campers the rules and principles of the movement, The Camp Fire was opened by Sri S. Sundaram B.A B.L., Secretary of the District Association. About 1000 people including many ladies from neighbouring places also enjoyed the fun at the Camp Fire.

Sri P. R. V. Kannu Pillai and his brother Ranganatham Pillai, Treasurer of the Association supplied the morning tiffin to the campers on 30th

Sri Ratnasabhapathy Pillai, Dy. Inspector of Schools, Valavanur Range, Sri V. R. Aravamudhan, B Sc., L.T. Headmaster of the local High School and his assistants Messrs. R. Devadasan, S Govindarajan, P. Ambikapathy, M. Venkatesan and some others rendered valuable service for the successful conduct of the Rally.

NORTH ARCOT DISTRICT

Under the auspices of the North Arcot District Bharat Scouts and Guides a Training Course was conducted from the 19th to 30th May 1955. Sri James D. Isaac. A.D C.C. was in charge of the Camp, assisted by Sri G. V. David, Secretary and Sri J. A. Rajaratnam, District Cubmaster. Altogether 31 Campers underwent the Training.

On 30th morning the closing ceremony was conducted and the Campers were exhorted to do their best when they go back to their Schools, starting Troops or assisting the troops already working.

The District Scout Commissioner, Rao Bahadur C. Doraiswamiah visited them in the Camp on 30th morning and spoke. The Secretary welcomed him and the Camp Officer thanked him.

On 29-5-55 Sri S. Veeraswami Pattar, M.A.L.T., the B. D.O T. V. Malai and Sri Natarajan the S.E.O. visited this Camp. They spoke in appreciation of this Training Camp.

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On 30-5-55 the Sarvodaya day was observed in Mallavadi village. Rao Bahadur C. Doraiswamiah the District Commissioner hoisted the flag and presided. Sri James D. Isaac, the Assistant District Commissioner Sri G. V. David, Secretary Sri B. Srinivasa Reddiar the President Panchayat Board, Mallavadi, Sri Natarajan, S.E.O and Sri S. Veerasami Pattar, the B.D.O. T. V. Malai spoke on the occasion. Milk to Harijan children of the village was distributed.

All the Scout Campers who are connected with the Comunity Project Scheme went into the Harijan colony, cleaned the streets, formed the streets with ditches on either side, cleaned the houses and white washed some houses. With a vote of thanks proposed to Sri A. G. Narayanaswami Reddiar.

TANJORE DISTRICT

Kumbakonam Local Association

The eleventh Annual Central Bulbul and Cub Camps were conducted on the 16th and

17th April respectively in the gardens of Mr. T. A. M. S. Boopal Chettiar. About 300 Bulbuls and Cubs participated. There were tests and competitions in the different items of Scout craft, games, songs and entertainments.

Mr. V. Balaramaiyya, B.A. B.L., Subordinate Judge, Kumbakonam presided over the Bulbul Day and distributed certificates to the winners of the competitions and the Rolling Shield to Kattaiyur Higher Elementary School, which stood first for the third time in all round proficiency.

The Cub Day was presided over by Mr. Meenakshi Ammal President, Kasturba Mathar Sangam, Kumbakonam. The Rolling Shield for Cubs for all round proficiency was annexed by the Native Primary School

Sri K. S. Seshadri, Assistant State Commissioner, and Srimathi Indira Nagarajan, District Commissioner (Guides) were present at the Camps and were a source of inspiration and guidance to the campers.

* * *

The Swaminatha Scout Group of the Town High School, Kumbakonam celebrated the Group Day on 14th April 1955, under the presidency of Sri S. Viswanatha Iyer, B.A.L.T., former Group Leader. The public and the parents who were present on the occasion were very much impressed by the Scout activities and camp fire items.

"FOXLEASE IN THE FALL"

BY ANNE BASIL.

Headquarters Commissioner for Training (Guides) West Bengal

Give me Foxlease in the fall and let Browning have England in April !

It was my first visit to this famous world training centre where I spent 5 delightful week-ends in October and November 1954.

Situated on the edge of the New Forest in Hampshire, Foxlease, dazzlingly white, was surrounded by nature in her most entrancing English mood. The Great Artist, with magic brush in hand, alone could have painted those warm autumnal tints—brilliant red holly, olive green mistletoe, yellow-crowned hedges, red-brown beaches, yew, apple, elm and ash trees in such lovely hues.

Tramping underfoot the thick carpet of red-gold leaves, inhaling the fresh, cool breeze, basking in the bright sunshine, gazing at the stately oak, elegant laurel, giant green cedar ; casting a nostalgic glance at the magnolia and pale blue sky, my fears of a cold, grey England vanished into thin air.

On Sundays a trip to Badger Hill teemed with surprises. Brushing past rows of dark rhodedendron groves in profuse foliage, suddenly a host of myriad-coloured mushrooms would rise to greet our hurrying feet ; whilst tall Canadian Redwoods beckoned us.

Here and there a red-breast hopped, a blackbird pecked a chaffinch tread a measure. Peering into badger holes for bits of hair was exciting fun, so was plucking dark-red black-berries, but presently one of the 7 Foxlease camp sites would come into view and feeling suddenly peckish, macks would be spread, lunch parcels untied, flasks unscrewed and we would set to with relish, chatting incessantly between bites and showing each other our collection of natures treasures. At such moments I would reflect on the truth of the saying " the town hides the tracks of God, camping helps to find them."

On first entering Foxlease, the following words immediately lifted the strangeness from my heart :—

" Not chance of birth or place has made us friends being often times of different tongaes and nations, But the endeavour for the self same ends with the same hopes and fears and aspirations."

In the entrance Hall hang pictures of Princess Royal and Mrs. Archbold (donor of Foxlease). The Visitor's Book on a table contains many Indian names. Other items of interest include drums from Africa, chairs and a chest from Hong Kong, a table from China and a fine clock.

In Foxlease, the rooms are named after countries which have equipped and maintain them. The bathrooms bear names of rivers. I recall Ganges and Ouse. Leading from the entrance Hall is "Hampshire" with its beautiful county standard, rich curtains (a gift from Mrs. Storrow—donor of 'Our Chalet') the story of Iphygenia in relief, a map of the world decorated with flags of countries who had sent trainees to Foxlease in 1954 and a pile of pillow-slips, towels etc. awaiting repair—opportunity for good turns! This room is a favourite rendezvous and is where we enjoyed our last cup of tea after camp fire every night.

Of all the rooms, "Scotland" is the most beautiful. It has a lovely Adam ceiling, attractive furnishings and cosy fire. Most of the sessions took place here as well as 'Guides Own' etc. "London" next door is more formally furnished with Adam mirrors, a desk from New Zealand and a trefoil- shaped tray from Hyderabad which bears an animal resembling a jackal which I think is meant to be a fox! Staff and court of honour meetings were held here. The well-appointed kitchens are the warmest part of the house (before central heating is switched on) and naturally the tendency was to linger here while filling our hot water bottles at bed time. The canteen, vegetable and laundry rooms are also downstairs where many a pleasant hour was spent.

Up a few steps is "Bucks" (small dining room) whose walls are hung with etchings and paintings by B.P., a copy of the 10 guide laws in his handwriting including the 11th law "a guide is not a fool" and a greeting card of the Chiefs signed with a drawing of a bee and 2 peas. "India Room" adjacent to "Bucks" is the large dining room. Its dark polished wooden flooring, striped Indian curtains, mirror-work tea-cosy covers and numerous objects of art from all parts of India, invariably gave me a nostalgic pang. "Wiltshire" or the Library also upstairs is a pleasing room where Brownie sessions were usually held.

The quaintest part of Foxlease are the Tudor style Quiet Room and Chapel right upstairs. These breathe an air of peace and serenity and often a guider may be seen kneeling in prayer in one of them. A window of the Chapel was painted by Maynard. The spacious Barn (thatched roof) with its welcoming log fireand minute stools was popular for camp fires on winter evenings. On the way to the Barn, on a raised ground, are planted several Coronation trees—gifts from the Commonwealth. Canada House in the annexe, contains from Canada and is charmingly furnished.

Nor is this all. Masses of flowers, leaves, moss and toad stools artistically arranged in vases of all shapes and sizes adorned every nook and corner. The soothing melody of the Swiss 'rising bell' awakened us ever so gently every morning. As much a part of Foxlease is Jonnny, Miss Hoares' (guider-in-charge) red-setter, who attended many a session but was happiest romping in the Forest with his owner or chasing unwelcome guests off the premises. The birds round about also play their part in Foxlease for they have lent their names to Foxlease Patrols—chiffchaff, rook, chaffinch, woodpecker, greenfinch and nuthatch. During one of my visits to a charming Hampshire family I happened to mention to my hostess that I was in chaffinch patrol and she purchased a heat—resisting tile for me with a chaffinch painted upon it. I treasure this souvenir.

Above all, the homely atmosphere and friendly relationship between staff and trainees, and among trainees from England, Nigeria, Canada, Uganda, Switzerland, Germany, Cyprus, Australia and India (myself) was eloquent proof of the bond of fellowship which unites Guides the world over.

ANNE BASIL

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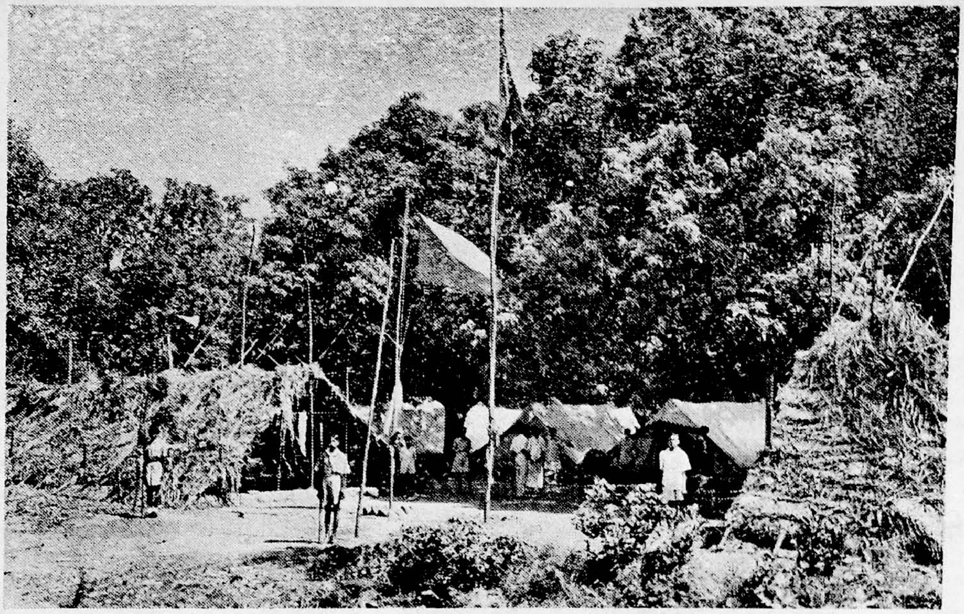


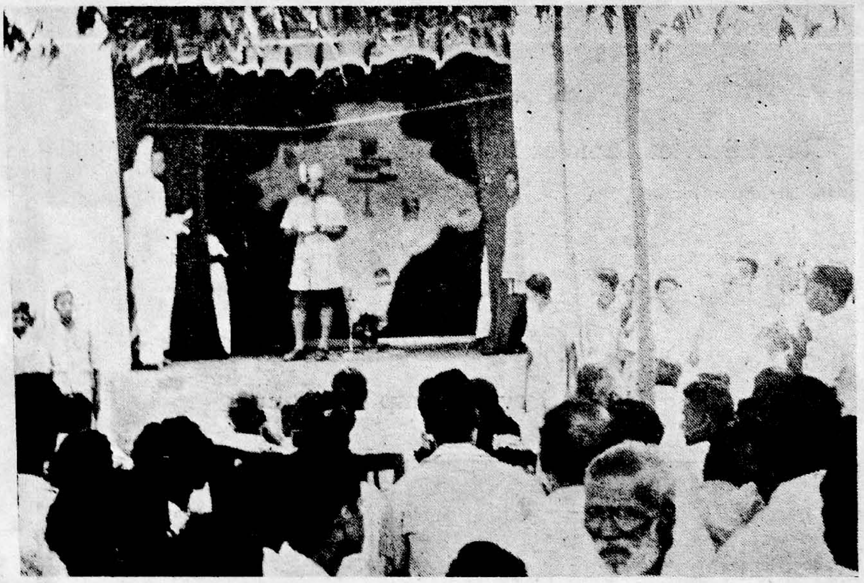
Rural Service Camp at Tiruvamur, North Arcot District.

Rural Service Camp – Pannur

Scouts laying the Road

 Regd. No. M. 4171

Our Scouts built an Open Air Theatre
Opened by our Chief Minister on 5—6—1955



at Kulipandalam in Chingleput.
The Scouts made the bricks and the tiles as well.

Edited & Published by Mr. V.S. Ratnasabhapathy, for The Bharat Scouts & Guides, Madras State, "Wenlock Park" South Beach Road, Triplicane, Madras-5 and Printed by K. G. Ananda Rao, at the Manorama Press, 39, M. J. B. Street, Triplicane, Madras-5